



News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 2, 2012  
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**Important Dates**

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| April 3  | Science Fair 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Students should be at the fair by 6:25.                                 |
| April 10 | Social Studies test (Amendments to the Constitution and branches of government)   |
| April 12 | D97 Choral Festival at OPRFHS at 7 p.m. Holmes students should arrive by 6:45 (Enter through the main doors on Scoville Avenue) |
| May 9    | MAP Testing Begins  |

**Dear Families,**

District 97, with input from certified staff at both middle schools, has begun a process that will result in fostering world-class middle schools. This district's vision of our preferred future will result in changes for both our academic and elective programs to develop best practices about educating students. Due to this process, **the April 18<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation at Brooks Middle School has been cancelled.**

**A friendly reminder:** As the weather warms up, we highly recommend students take a nightly shower and use antiperspirant/deodorant daily. Please feel free to have your child keep an extra supply at school in his or her locker.

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**Art** -The *Wednesday Journal's* "Design an Ad" contest winners will be printed in the newspaper this week. Students that won will have their advertisement printed in the paper! I will keep an extra newspaper for any Holmes student that wins.

**Music** - Chorus members have rehearsals for their Choral Festival starting this week (Tuesday p.m.)! If you have not sent a permission slip, please send one in with your child as soon as possible or fill out the online permission slip at this link: [Choral Permission Slip](#)

**Spanish** - In Spanish we are working on ordering food in a restaurant. Students are working in groups to create a skit that includes waiter/waitresses, managers, and diners. We will start performing the role playing this week.

**Library** - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.



### Reading/Literature TREASURES

This week, students will work on the skill of monitoring comprehension by determining character and setting. The main selection is a realistic fiction piece called *Skunk Scout* by Laurence Yep.

### LITERATURE CIRCLES

Students will begin a new literature circle book next week, April 9, and will meet each Wednesday to discuss assigned reading.

### Language Arts

**Writing Focus:** This week we will finish our creative writing project based off of the book *The Secret Shortcut* by Mark Teague. Similar to the adventure in the story, students were charged with creating a "shortcut" to help them get to school, that included twists, turns and obstacles along the way. The final draft is due by Monday, April 9th

**Grammar Focus:** The grammar skill for this week is possessive pronouns, contractions and homophones.

### Math

Graded Unit 7 tests were returned to students. Please review the test with your child, sign it and have your child return the test to school. Students who scored a '2' on the test may correct the test and turn it in for regrading. Tests must be turned in by Thursday.

Today we began Unit 8, which covers fractions and ratios. This week, we will be focusing on adding and subtracting mixed numbers. There will be a short quiz on Thursday.

### Science

The Science Fair is tomorrow. Projects will be judged in the morning, and the Science Fair will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Students should be at the fair by 6:25.

Our first dissection will be on Thursday, April 13. We will be dissecting sheep hearts and we will need assistance from adults to handle the scalpels. If you can assist, please e-mail Ms. Manuel. Class times are: 5K - 10:45 a.m., 5P - 1:30 p.m. and 5M - 2:10 p.m.

On Thursday, students will be assigned a project for the Human Body unit. Students will choose a body system to research, write a brief research paper and create a glog. Project requirements will be posted on the Science page of the 5th grade wiki by the end of the week.

### Social Studies

This week, we will begin our study of American expansion, with Cornell notes on Monday and we'll work with iCivics again this week to study the branches of government. We will have a test next Tuesday, April 10, on the Amendments to the Constitution and the three branches of government. Students created study tools for both of these topics in class before the break. They also are available for download on the Social Studies section of the wiki.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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